

REMARKS

Claims 6, 8, 10 and 11 have been canceled with prejudice, and replaced with new claims 38-41, which are pending in the present application. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 6,782,905 to Chu et al. ("Chu") in view of USP 6,446,396 to Marangoni et al. ("Marangoni"). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the new claims.

Claim 38

New independent claim 38 recites, among other limitations and elements, two separate and independent structures, each having two panels, with the two panels in each structure having different shapes in a manner such that one of the panels in each structure is less than half the size of the other panel. See FIG. 7.

In contrast, all the structures in Chu are not made of separate and independent structures. Instead, all of the panels in Chu are connected together.

In addition, Chu does not teach or suggest separate structures, each having two panels having different shapes in a manner such that one of the panels in each structure is less than half the size of the other panel.

These limitations are significant because the disparity between the sizes of the two panels within a structure make it impossible for a four-sided connected structure to be twisted and folded. For example, referring to FIG. 7 of the present invention, if the four panels were hingedly connected along all of the sides of the panels, it would not be possible to fold the four panels on top of each other to form a stack of panels that can be twisted and folded. Therefore, the claimed invention provides two separate structures having panels of different shapes and sizes so that the panels of each separate structure can be stacked and then easily twisted and folded.

Thus, even if Chu were combined with Marangoni, the resulting combination would still not yield the claimed invention.

Claim 41

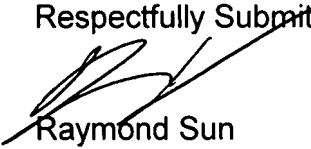
Claim 41 recites similar limitations as those in claim 38, except in the form of a method claim reciting how the two structures can be easily used to decorate an item of furniture, and then how the two structures can be separated, the panels stacked, and then resulting structures twisted and folded. In contrast, Chu does not teach or suggest any of these limitations, nor are these limitations implicit. Thus, even if Chu were combined with Marangoni, the resulting combination would still not yield the claimed

invention.

Thus, claims 38 and 41, and claims 39 and 40 depending therefrom, are submitted to be allowable over Chu and Marangoni.

In light of the above, allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any amendments that are needed to place this application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,


Raymond Sun
Attorney for Applicant
12420 Woodhall Way
Tustin, CA 92782
Tel: 949-252-9180

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Raymond Sun